



Portland Italian Businessmen's Club Newsletter

September 2010

L 'angolo della Cultura

Salute! Health Care in Italy

Sure, genetics, diet (red wine, olive oil, fresh produce, less red meat) and walking (especially in hill towns) all contribute to a making Italy's population healthier and with a longer life expectancy than most of the world. Credit could also be given to Italy's Servizio Sanitaria Nazionale (SSN), Italy's health service that provides health care to every Italian citizen for life. In spite of the complaints of Italians for their system, the World Health Organization has rated Italy as second only to France for its health care (the US was 37th) and Newsweek Magazine puts Italy as the fifth best country for health care.

Beginning in 1958 and through 1978, when the SSN was formed, the government gradually took over the administration of health care. How is it paid for? Taxes of course...income and VAT.

Italy's 20 regions have individual responsible for their hospitals and clinics. The result is that some regions do better than others in the services provided. The north is considered better equipped for more complex procedures, so Italians may travel to other regions for specialty care; i.e. Liguria has a high percentage of elderly, so more focus it on their medical needs such as knee joint replacements.

Primary and preventative care is free. After that, the individual pays a fee based upon the service, with the government paying most of the cost. The service is provided by a combination of church, non-profits and privately contracted facilities. Italians can avoid the SSN entirely and seek their own doctor, hospital, etc. by paying for it. About a third of the population also has supplemental insurance.

Government rules and procedures...and tax laws... tend to "equalize" the earnings of doctors to encourage them to stay in primary care and public health.

An Italian complaint frequently heard is that there can be long waits for procedures. The wait for non-essential and complex procedures such as those knee replacements can be months. However, essential procedures are usually obtained without delay.

Italy spends about 9% of its GDP on health care vs. approximately 16% in the US. One explanation is our more readily available technology (MRIs, etc.). However, every Italian is covered, the cost is low and a part of their good health can be attributed to it.

2010 Festa Italiana

Congratulations to our club! The IBC, though smaller in number than most Italian clubs in Portland, signed up for over 70 hours of Festa volunteering, coming in slightly behind the Paesano Club which has three times the membership. Actually, at the last Festa meeting, Shireen Firahi announced that we had more hours, but last minute sign ups by the Paesano Club beat us.

At the Festa, the IBC again had a booth to publicize the IBC and the member's businesses. On stage, the entertainment was better than ever with locally legend, John English, the singing of Moreno Fruzzetti and bands of Bella Ciao and Ray Massa's Eurorythms, who rocked the piazza. Terry Amato and I were MC's for some of the festival.

With the almost perfect weather, new restaurants, good entertainment and the use of tokens, it was an extremely successful event. The evening crowds were large and the food and wine booths worked non-stop with many IBC members helping out. Thank you to all who volunteered for our IBC booth and for the Festa.



Carter Family Marionettes



Frank and Claudé at IBC table (take note of the bottles)



Yes, that's me as MC
introducing Moreno Fruzzetti



Eurorythms' dance party each night

Scenes from the Festa Italiana

IBC Christmas dinner planning

Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 14. Come to the next meeting to help us to do some planning for the event and finalize plans for our "Vendemmia".

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 Frank Genovese, President, 626-216-8709 Guy LaCesa, VP, 503-635-3303
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“Vendemmia”
Harvest time in the vineyard

Ancora una volta!



Our June “Afternoon in Tuscany” was such a wonderful event
We decided to do it again at “crush” time at the vineyard

Portland’s Italian Businessmen’s Club and Tuscan Association
are hosting another wine and food afternoon
at the “Tuscan like” Alloro Vineyard in northern Willamette Valley
Sunday, September 19, 2010 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Proceeds benefit Scuola Italiana di Portland

- Wonderful Alloro Vineyard wines
- Traditional Italian Sunday afternoon picnic by
IBC’s Italian Chef Emilio Barbero →→→
- Puccini, Verdi, ...and perhaps a little Sinatra
- Bocce, vintner’s harvest conversation

This event is open to all... Reserve soon, our last event sold out
\$60 per person

3 ways to reserve and pay:

1. Pay online at the IBC web site : www.ibcpdx.org
2. Mail check to: IBC at 4110 SE Hawthorne #658, Portland, OR 97214
3. contact Joe Cavalli at 503.929.0132 (giuseppecavalli@hotmail.com) or
Max Corona at 503.235.0705

*Do not send check or call Alloro Vineyard for payment

MENU
• VITELLO TONNATO
• PROSCIUTTO & MELONE
• INSALATA DI PASTA
• PERPERONATA
• INSALATA RUSSA
• SALUMI & FORMAGGI
• MOZZARELLA CAPRESE
• FRESHLY BAKED FOCACCIA & PANE



22075 SW LeBeau Rd. Sherwood 07140 • www.allorovineyard.com • 503.813.0063

Our second spectacular wine event

Our Vendemmia wine country event is almost here! Sunday, September 19 is the day and it looks like another successful event, this time as a benefit for Portland’s Scuola Italiana. An Italian meal of many antipasti dishes by Emilio Barbero will be served and we will have more music; this time we have an outstanding trio playing Italian, classical and, while we are eating, light jazz.

Vineyard owner, David Nemarnik will discuss what goes on at “crush” time at the vineyard and we will have time to play some “unorganized” bocce. If you haven’t already signed up, please go to our web site to reserve your place and pay online, send in your check or call Joe Cavalli (503 929-0132) or Max Corona (503 235-0705).

Because this is a benefit for the Scuola Italiana a portion of the \$60 cost may be tax deductible. If you were at the June event, you know it will be a good time. If you weren’t, join us with your spouse and friends for a guaranteed great time!

Columbus Day Dinner and Dance

This year’s Columbus Day Banquet will be held Saturday evening, October 2, 6 PM to midnight. Always a popular event, it will be even better this year with a good Italian dinner and music provided by Tony Ciaramitaro’s Sicilian Band from LA. **This event will also benefit the Scuola Italiana.**

Each Portland club will be represented and have a few minutes to speak. Scheduled is also IBC member and Tuscan Assoc. president, Joe Cavalli who will speak on “Why Columbus Matters”.

The event will also feature a “wine wall” where wines with a hidden label can be purchased for \$20 a bottle. Each club is donating 4 bottles to the event. The wines that we will donate are from Alloro and will be a bargain if you are lucky enough to pick one. For tickets, call Theresa Rossetto at 503-4068.

IBC News and Happenings

Our August meeting, the second at Port City Pasta, was well attended and the dinner was fantastic. Chef Alex (Roger’s son) did another great job. Guests were my son, Michael Iannacone, Shireen Farahi, who signed up volunteers to help at the Festa and Theresa and Sheryl, who spoke about the Columbus Day Banquet (see above article).

Most of the rest of the discussion centered on plans for our second wine event, the September 19 “Vendemmia”. A follow up meeting was held with club officers on August 19 to hash out the details, and produce a plan and check list for the event. The wine event is on track to be successful with your help. Sign up soon for what promises to be another great afternoon reminiscent of being in Tuscany.

Our next IBC dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 at Port City Pasta, 333 S. State St in Lake Place Center, Lake Oswego 97034, (503) 699-2927. This is 5 days before our Alloro Vineyard event and we will be reviewing plans for that big event, discussing the Festa, planning for our annual Christmas dinner, discussing our financial position and other topics.

Listen to Lucia Galizia’s Italian Hour at 9AM on Sundays, Sept 12 and 26 on KBOO, 90.7 FM. Lucia will be playing some of the music heard at Festa Italiana. Bob Iannacone will be Lucia’s “sidekick” on the show.